

knows, was James Smith who was bound to a tanner in Staunton, Va. until he was twenty-one years of age. Then he came to Pocahontas County and rented Wallaces Tannery at Millpoint. He never had a tannery of his own. He had five sons, three of whom were tanners. Jake Smith had his tannery located at Edray, but he did not make up his leather. William Smith had no tannery but he made harness, saddles, and shoes. He also lived at Edray. It is probable that he bought the leather from his brother Jake. Joe Smith had a tannery and was located at Millpoint. Isaac Smith, another son, had his tannery on the Greenbrier River between Seebert and Watoga. Pleas Smith, the fifth son, lived at Edray and was a country doctor.

Edgar A. Smith, father of Benton Smith, has a tannery near Watoga. He tans the leather and does some repair work but does not make up much of his leather. Benton Smith says that he worked in the tannery with his father until four years ago, at which time he moved to Millpoint and built a tannery of his own. His is the good old oak tanned leather. The first spell is in the vat for one month; the second is for two months; the third for three months. If the leather is light that is enough. The fourth is for four months, and this is for heavy sides for sole leather. There were a lot of bear pelts in the process of tanning and the deer hides numbered more than one hundred. Mr. Smith has demand for tanned calf skin for leathercraft work. He makes harness and mens belts.

Andrew Young was a shoemaker.

Sampson Nottingham-----a shoemaker.

Henry Arbogast-----a blacksmith.

Jacob Yeager -----a blacksmith.

Samuel Gay of Elk-----a blacksmith.

Abraham Hill -----a blacksmith.

Joseph Friel----- a blacksmith.

Thomas Mays-----made shoes and harness. He lived

on Browns Creek.

From Court Records.

July 16, 1940

DUNMORE MILLS

I went to Dunmore yesterday to try to get the history of the mills up there. From a history of Dunmore written by Miss Ella Pritchard several years ago I got the following;

" The only flour mill for a number of miles was located at Dunmore, and run by a splendid water power which never froze nor went dry, making it dependable. The older mill was run by what is called an overshot wheel. Later another mill was erected by Col. Stephen Cornelius Pritchard who used the turbine wheel for power. On this old water power location was also an up and down saw mill, a carding machine which did splendid work, and a planing machine which made Dunmore a very business center."

As near as I can get it by what the older people tell me, Andrew Mathews built the first mill on this location some time before the Civil War. No one seems to know if he also owned the saw mill and carding machine or not, but since they were run by the same power, it is believed that he did.

According to Miss Ella Pritchard, Andrew Mathews sold his land to William L. Duncan and Isaac Moore. They changed the name of the place from Mathewville to Dunmore, using a combination of their names. Duncan then sold to John W. Warwick in 1855, and in 1860 it was bought by John Andrew Warwick, who in turn sold to a Mr. Johnson of Warm Springs, Va. Then in 1873, Cornelius Pritchard

exchanged a farm on Jackson River for this land at Dunmore. He built the present mill not long after he moved here. Therefore it was built sometime in the 1870's.

Cam McLaughlin, the present owner of the mill showed me through the old mill and explained the purpose of each machine. All of the old original machinery, cog wheels and all are of wood, and still in use. Lumber for the mill was sawed on the old up and down saw mill. Every piece was cut on the ground and ready for assemblage before the foundation was ever laid. Then when Mr. Pritchard started to build, all he had to do was to put it together. The old wheel was an overshot wooden wheel, this was replaced by a turbine. Mr Pritchard died leaving the mill to his heirs. They did not run it themselves but rented it or hired millers to run it for them. Among those caring for the mill for a time were Luther Campbell and Jack Duffy. About fifteen years ago the mill was bought by Cam McLaughlin. He built an addition to it which he used as a garage. For many years the mill was idle. Mr. McLaughlin made a wooden wheel to generate power for lights and to charge batterys etc. This wheel was replaced a few years ago by a metal wheel. About three years ago Mr. McLaughlin started the old mill to running again. Few people liked the unbleached flour so he does not grind wheat but uses the wheat burrs to grind buckwheat flour. It also has a corn burr.

There is some talk now of it being sold to a brewery company who wish to use the mineral water. whether this deal goes through remains to be seen.

The Dunmore Roller Mill built by Winifred McElwee was not built until 1912.

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W.Va.
Pocahontas County

James E. A. Gibbs

Gibbs was a mechanic, a man of the tenant class who barely made a living for himself and his large family. For a time he was in charge of a combined grist mill, carding machine, and sawmill built by James A. Price at Marlins Bottom.

The idea of making a sewing machine came to Gibbs while he lived in the Little Levels on lands belonging to Col. Samuel Ruckman. It is said that his working model was carved by him from a laurel root.

He went into partnership with a man by the name of Wilcox at Wilmington, Delaware. Gibbs came back to Marlinton, leaving Wilcox to introduce the machine to the public. The Civil War broke out and he remained here. The Gibbs family almost starved.

When communication was opened with the north, after the war, Gibbs found that Wilcox had made a great success of the sewing machine, and had banked Gibbs' part of the money for him. Gibbs returned to Delaware and from that time on he was a rich man.

In the 1890's, Gibbs came back to Marlinton for several visits. He was over six feet tall and wore a tall silk hat. He said at that time that he had taken out 163 patents. His chain stitch sewing machine was known for generations as the Wilcox and Gibbs machine.

From---Pocahontas Times-Jan. 2, 1930
Calvin Price

Pocahontas Times---1923
Andrew Price